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INFORMATION CALENDAR

OFFICE OF INFORMATION • UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

March 17, 1945

No. 102

GASOLINE FOR GARDENERS. Extra gasoline can be obtained by Victory Gardeners again this year. Applications for extra rations will be accepted beginning March 26 by local War Price and Ration Boards. Qualifications for approval of the applications are about the same as for the last two years except for one additional limitation--the garden must not be more than 15 miles from the home or place of work. Other requirements are: at least 1,500 square feet in vegetables, the mileage must be needed to provide necessary labor for cultivation, mileage is limited to 300 miles during the six-month period following date of application, and no alternative means of transportation must be available. (OPA-5399)

RECENT LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS. . . . March 12, the House passed a bill to continue Commodity Credit Corporation and increase its borrowing power. The bill will now be considered by conference committee. March 13, the House passed a bill (not yet considered by the Senate) to continue the Lend Lease Act for one year. March 15, the Senate passed a bill appropriating funds for a TVA fertilizer plant at Mobile, Alabama. The Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee reported a resolution providing for an investigation of food production and distribution. The Senate passed a bill (not yet considered by the House) to authorize continuation of RFC subsidies on certain foods.

EXTENSION WORKERS TO ATTEND FARM LABOR INSTITUTES. . . . Beginning March 19, Seven 5-day institutes will be held for extension workers throughout the country to prepare them to conduct a 10-hour job method training course for farm people. The institutes will be held at the state agriculture college in Durham, N. H.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Manhattan, Kan.; College Station, Tex.; St. Paul, Minn.; Bozeman, Mont.; and West LaFayette, Ind. It is thought that the 10-hour courses will help farm people do their daily routine work easier and more productively so that they can spend more time in the field during the crop-growing season.

VICTORY GARDEN INSECT GUIDE, AWI-95, lists the insect enemies of the more important vegetables and explains how to control them. It is recommended where less detailed information is wanted on this subject than that contained in Misc. Publication No. 525, the handbook on insects and diseases mentioned in the March 3 Calendar. ROOT VEGETABLES IN WARTIME MEALS, AWI-39, has been revised and reprinted. It contains recipes for cooking the root vegetables "to make the most of minerals, vitamins, and flavor. . . ." Copies of either of these publications can be obtained from the Office of Information.

18 NATIONS APPROVE FAO CONSTITUTION. . . . The constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has been agreed to by 18 nations, with only 20 acceptances being necessary to bring it into force. The nations which have accepted, according to the United Nations Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture, are: Australia, Belgium, China, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Philippines, Poland, and the United Kingdom. The United States has not yet taken action, but it is expected that the FAO constitution will soon be submitted to Congress. Provision is made in its constitution for FAO to become a part of any general world organization that may be established. Its purposes are to improve agricultural production and distribution, raise the levels of nutrition and standards of living, and better the conditions of rural populations. An important part of its work will be to aid nations in adapting their agriculture to changing world conditions.

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ONION NEWS. An effort will be made during the next three weeks to move the present unusually heavy supply of onions before the new Texas crop begins moving about April 1. The Midwest Region reports double the stock of onions on hand last year. Office of Supply regional offices have been authorized to check the supply and price situation in their respective areas and give necessary assistance on a regional level. Onions did not appear on the list of plentiful foods for April but probably should have been included in view of the present abundant supplies. Stocks are unusually heavy in Michigan, Minnesota and New York. Onions are usually absent from the market this time of year but extremely bad weather and the resulting transportation tie-up is recent weeks held thousands of bushels in storage.

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THE STORY OF CHILD CARE CENTERS on the CONSUMER TIME SHOW, March 24, will be a salute to war-working mothers. The program will be a pick-up from San Diego, a city that ranks high in the national child care program. Some children, a woman war-worker, and a Navy chaplain will be guests on the program. The San Diego superintendent of schools will explain the importance of child care centers in wartime. The March 31 show will tell how a school lunch program was started in one school through the efforts of a rural teacher.

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AN OPA PROGRAM TO CURB EXCESSIVE REPAIR CHARGES on automobile and farm equipment has been initiated. Effective March 19, OPA's nine regional offices will have authority to require equipment repair shops that charge an hourly rate to give detailed invoices and keep detailed time records in all cases so that enforcement measures can be taken where charges are unreasonable (OPA-5389).

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YOUR HOME AND GARDEN show on March 24 will feature tips from Ernie Moore and Duke Dumars for beginning gardeners who want to get the early crops in at the right time. Ruth Van Deman will have some good tips for homemakers for this spring.

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USDA RELEASES OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE. . . . Canada continues limited guarantee of \$1.25 a bushel for wheat---443; United Nations Food and Agriculture Organizations near establishment--443; WFA to certify food industry men under 30 for occupational deferment---447; Farmers may accept more

war prisoner labor--462; Lt. Col. Buie to succeed Brig. General Bruton as WFA Director of Labor--463; Merchantable potato stocks as of March 1, 1945--477; Peace-time opportunities for farmers (talk by Secretary Wickard at Bluffton, Ind.; Mar. 20)--481; Trial crop insurance for corn, 1945--482; Minimum sugar act wage requirements for 1945 crops of sugar beets--486.

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OTHER RELEASES OF INTEREST. Slaughterers may apply to OPA for permission to slaughter good and choice cattle in excess of maximum percentages--OPA-5379; Food price compliance program--OPA-5376; Action taken to alleviate meat shortages in restaurants in "deficiency areas"--OPA-5378; OPA will enforce record keeping requirements under clothing price regulations--OPA-T-3044; Minor changes in regulation covering manufacturers' and wholesalers' maximum prices for farm equipment--OPA-T-3039; Revised price structure for the 1945 pack of canned snap beans being considered--OPA-5387; Price increase denied southern pine lumber industry--OPA-T-3050; Prices established for cotton linters rejected for chemical use--OPA-T-3046; Extra gasoline rations for victory gardeners--OPA-5399; Surplus government property sold at farm auctions under price control--OPA-5397; Eligibility for new 1942 automobiles additionally restricted--OPA-5381; Program designed to curb excessive charges for repair services--OPA-5389.

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"KIDS MUST EAT". The school lunch movie of this title featuring the Quiz Kids and Joe Kelly has been completed. It was produced for the Department by Wilding Pictures Corporation under the direction of Ben James of USDA's Office of Supplies. Commercial theaters are being supplied with 35mm. prints by the Department's Motion Picture Service. Sixteen mm. prints are being made available to nutrition committees and the Department's depositories for immediate showing.

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OTHER AGRICULTURAL MOVIES. "YOUR FUTURE SECURITY", a war bond trailer for use in rural areas has been completed by the Department's Motion Picture Service for the War Bond Division of the Treasury Department. It is intended to promote the sale of war bonds and will be distributed through the Department's depositories to be shown as a part of motion picture programs for farmers. . . . Photography on "QUERER ES PODER", a Puerto Rican nutrition film has been completed. The title means "When there's a will, there's a way."

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